

CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA.

16. The changes which the forest areas of the Central Circle, settled and constituted under the Forest Act, have undergone, are exhibited in the following statement :—

| Divisions. | AREA ON 1ST JULY 1896. | | | | ADDED DURING THE YEAR. | | | | EXCLUDED DURING THE YEAR. | | | | AREA ON 30TH JUNE 1897. | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | Reserved. | | Protected. | | Reserved. | | Protected. | | Reserved. | | Protected. | | Reserved. | | Protected. | |
| | Square miles. | | Square miles. | | Square miles. | | Square miles. | | Square miles. | | Square miles. | | Square miles. | | Square miles. | |
| | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. |
| East Khândesh | 811 | 21 | ... | ... | ... | 53 | ... | ... | ... | 15 | ... | ... | 811 | 59 | ... | ... |
| West Khândesh | 1,724 | 433 | ... | ... | 4 | 330 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,729 | 123 | ... | ... |
| Nâsik... .. | 1,279 | 241 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,279 | 241 | ... | ... |
| Ahmednagar | 836 | 579 | 11 | 100 | ... | 76 | ... | ... | ... | 25 | ... | ... | 836 | 630 | 11 | 100 |
| Poona... .. | 710 | 530 | ... | ... | ... | 33 | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | ... | 710 | 540 | ... | ... |
| Sâtâra... .. | 687 | 304 | ... | 616 | 9 | 414 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 | ... | 697 | 78 | ... | 602 |
| Sholâpur | 277 | 411 | ... | ... | ... | 97 | ... | ... | ... | 62 | ... | ... | 277 | 456 | ... | ... |
| Total .. | 6,337 | 599 | 12 | 78 | 14 | 363 | ... | ... | ... | 106 | ... | 14 | 6,352 | 216 | 12 | 62 |

Thus it will be seen that the reserved and protected forest area at close of the year amounted to 6,364 square miles and 278 acres ; the net increase in favour of the year being 14 square miles and 243 acres in the total forest area of the Circle.

17. Of the 14 square miles and 363 acres shown as added to reserved forests, 4 square miles and 369 acres denote book rectification of areas owing to errors discovered in original entries and to discrepancies in measurements and calculations between the old and recent surveys, and 9 square miles and 634 acres are additional areas which have been settled and declared reserved forests by notifications under Section 19 of the Indian Forest Act, during the year. Disforestation, both of reserved and protected forests, have been very trifling. Of the 106 acres excluded from reserved forests 39 acres represent rectifications of mistakes in book entries and only 14 acres of protected forests have been disforested to become building sites at Mahâbaleshvar.

(ii).—FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

18. All important settlement work has already been completed long ago, and there remains only the afforestation of certain occupied lands contained within the sanctioned forest boundary lines, which as they become vacant and available are settled under the provisions of the Forest Act ; this duty, together with the compilation of the records of the forest settlement, is engaging the time and attention of the Forest Settlement Officers.

19. Information as regards outstanding settlement work is given in the following statement as required by Government in paragraph 3 of their Resolution No. 5068, dated 29th June 1896, in the Revenue Department :—

| No. | Division. | STAGES OF OUTSTANDING WORK. | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | Occupied lands to be acquired. | | | Land to be notified under Section 4. | Land to be notified under Section 7. | Land to be notified under Section 19. | Total. |
| | | By exchange or Compensation. | | Land to be notified under the Land Acquisition Act. | | | | |
| | | Negotiations Proceeding. | Negotiations completed. | | | | | |
| | | A. g. | A. g. | A. g. | A. g. | A. g. | A. g. | A. g. |
| 1 | East Khândesh ... | 3,193 5 | 2,964 3 | 833 21 | 217 22 | 2,746 21 | ... | 6,990 29 |
| 2 | West Khândesh ... | 3,314 37 | 1,730 30 | 1,252 33 | 77 0 | 1,653 30 | ... | 6,298 20 |
| 3 | Nâsik ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 0 | 22 0 |
| 4 | Ahmednagar... .. | 376 16 | 76 38 | ... | 76 1 | 166 38 | 166 38 | 860 11 |
| 5 | Poona ... | 677 39 | 162 6 | 12 8 | 199 34 | 51 30 | 51 30 | 941 31 |
| 6 | Sâtâra ... | 327 35 | ... | ... | ... | 79 8 | 168 36 | 575 39 |
| 7 | Sholâpur ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 127 0 | 127 0 |
| | Total ... | 7,890 12 | 4,933 37 | 2,082 22 | 570 17 | 4,698 7 | 536 24 | 15,816 10 |